

**Outdoor Recreation Task Force**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2005 10:00am – 2:00pm**  
**West Office Building**  
**Room 135**  
**State Capitol Complex**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**

**AGENDA**

Mike Deaver, Co-Chair will be conducting the meeting

- I. Welcome and Introductions of New Members – Mike Deaver - 5 minutes
- II. Public Input - 5 minutes
- III. Approval of Minutes - Mike Deaver - 5 minutes  
**Action Item: Approve Minutes**
- IV. Report of Scoping Meetings in Grand County and Uintah County

**1. Legal / Legislative Issues**

***Grand County***

Jones Act

McDougald v. OARS Canyonlands, a case regarding injuries to boatmen operating recreational trips on Utah rivers. In the past, companies have been covered by the workers compensation insurance. If the Federal District Court in Fresno, California rules that the Jones Act applies to Utah rivers, river outfitters will be forced to purchase additional insurance to cover such claims. The cost of this insurance is prohibitively high, causing concern among members of Utah's whitewater industry.

Search and Rescue Cards

The state of Colorado sells Search and Rescue cards to outdoor enthusiast for emergency rescues. It was suggested that Utah consider a similar program. The program provides net positive cash flow that could be used to fund the states other recreation priorities.

***Uintah County***

Utah Field House of Natural History State Park and Museum

Funding for the Repository at the Museum has been postponed for a number of years.

**2. Land Issues**

**A .Federal Land Issues**

### ***Uintah County***

#### **Red Fleet State Park**

Curt Sinclear, park manager, would like to preserve the quality of the viewshed to the north of the park. The land is currently under BLM ownership and its future is uncertain.

### **B. SITLA and State Lands**

#### ***Grand County***

#### **The Colorado River Corridor**

Many of the issues with regard to the Colorado River Corridor are being addressed in the proposed land trade between SITLA and the BLM. However, the Governor's support would be helpful in assuring the passage of bill currently before congress.

#### **The Sovereign Trail**

Lands surrounding the Sovereign Trail have been identified in the Grand County Master Trail plan as a place where a stacked loop singletrack trail system could be developed. Such a trail system is needed in order for Grand County to compete with trail systems developed in places like Fruita, Durango, and Sun Valley, all of whom are attracting visitors away from Moab. Planning for such a trail system is complicated by SITLA lands in the area.

### **C. Private Land Issues**

#### ***Uintah County***

#### **Stienaker State Park**

This park is used extensively by boaters, waterskiers and fisherman. The park currently surrounds a 360 acre parcel of private land. A land trade or purchase to take ownership of this parcel would assure that it remain undeveloped and open to recreation.

## **3. Marketing Opportunities**

#### ***Grand County***

#### **National Parks -**

The parks in Grand County have experience little growth in visitation since 2001 and would benefit from mention in the state's marketing efforts. These include:

**Canyonlands National Park** – User-days are available for both outfitters and the public in Canyonlands.

**Arches National Park** – While there are ongoing discussions regarding parking and transportation within the park, there are significant opportunities to increase visitation in the park's shoulder seasons.

#### ***Uintah County***

#### **Dinosaurland National Monument**

Dinosaurland is a unique recreation opportunity and Uintah County could benefit from increased marketing.

#### Winter Recreation and Non-motorized recreation

Uintah County offers numerous winter recreation opportunities that could increase tourism in the winter months if marketed correctly. Non-motorized recreation opportunities in the High Unitas could also use increased marketing.

#### **4. Infrastructure Required**

##### ***Grand County***

###### 128 Bike Path

The county is in line to receive a variety of grants through UDOT and others to complete a bike path system. One of the highlights of this system is a bike path along Scenic Highway 128. While some of the funding has been secured, additional funds will be needed to complete, what can only be considered as one of the most beautiful bike paths in the country in through the Colorado River Canyon.

##### ***Uintah County***

###### Seep Ridge Road

Currently unpaved, this road provides a direct route from Vernal to Interstate-70. If paved, this road could be part of the scenic by-way stretching from Mexico to Canada. It has the possibility to increase tourism to Uintah County.

- V. Moving Forward with Recreation Gems
- VI. LUNCH - 12:00  
Presentation about Millcreek Township's Venture Outdoors Festival - Amiee McConkie
- VII. Rural Economic Clusters - Nan Anderson
- VIII. Outdoor Retailer Winter Market - January 28 - February 2
- IX. Schedule Next Meeting
- X. Adjourn  
**Action Item: Adjourn Meeting**